



Equipment handles narrow aisles

The narrow aisles of KraMar's new facility gave them plenty of room for expansion, but did limit their choice of stockpickers. **Scott Rhodie** reports.

KRAMAR Pet Supplies recently relocated to a purpose-built, 10,000m² facility at Smeaton Grange near Campbelltown in Sydney's south west. To maximise available space in the new facility for future expansion, the company opted for a very narrow aisle (VNA) racking system, a system that calls for specialised man-up turret trucks and stockpickers.

KraMar's operations manager, Craig Stuart was charged with ensuring that the design of the building could best incorporate bulk product storage, a large picking area and a manufacturing area.

"Even though we have had a much larger floor space than previously, our aim was to build an allowance for growth into our design.

"During the design phase we looked for a materials handling company that could assist in maximising our storage capacity, and their recommendation was for a VNA racking system," said Stuart.

Whilst the VNA solved the space problem, it also limited the choice of lift equipment.

"When we went to the marketplace for this specialised equipment we were mindful of the fact that if the equipment broke down our operation would be severely hampered.

"With over 2500 SKUs and an average turn around time from receipt of order to despatch of less than 24 hours, we needed a supplier that could support us," Stuart said.



A VNA racking system helped provide KraMar with room for growth

Craig Kenchington, GM marketing with Crown said, "We had just released a new man-up turret truck, the TSP 6000, into the market so KraMar were obviously interested in looking at one of these new units and then appraising the service and parts back up that would be offered with it".

As it turned out, it was the combination of the right equipment, a strong service and parts network and a reputation for reliability that won the day

The KraMar fleet consists of a Crown man-up turret stockpicker, the new TSP 6000, a SC4000 counterbalance unit and a man-up stockpicker, the SP3400.